

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 9, 2015

Agenda Item: 2015 Fall Upland Game Bird Quotas and Limits

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

Upland game bird season dates for 2015 were approved in February. The following are changes proposed to bag and possession limits, and permit quotas for turkeys for 2015.

- **Region 1:** In December 2013 it was proposed that the fall bag limit be increased to two either-sex turkeys with the intent that the yearly bag limit would likewise be increased to three. However, this wasn't properly reflected in the regulations. FWP seeks the following fall regulations clarification:
 - **Bag Limit:** *2 wild turkey, either-sex in the fall. A separate license is required for each turkey. However, the total bag limit of the spring and fall seasons combined cannot exceed three turkeys per hunter. For example, if you kill two turkeys in the spring, you can only take one in the fall. You cannot kill three turkeys in the spring nor can you kill three turkeys in the fall season. The combination of up to three turkeys per year may come from the spring and fall seasons as described below. However, for any combination of three turkeys taken during the spring and fall seasons combined, at least one must be taken in Region 1.*
 - **Spring Season** - A hunter may harvest up to 2 male turkeys in the spring as long as at least one of them is harvested in Region 7.
 - **Fall Season** – A hunter may harvest up to 2 either-sex turkeys in the fall as long as at least one of them is harvested in Regions 1 or 7. Any hunter taking a second turkey in the fall and hunting in Region 1 must take a hen turkey.

Region 3: Increase the HD 395 fall permit quota from 20 general and two youth-only permits to 50 general and 10 youth-only.

No other changes are proposed for other upland game bird bag, possession limits and permit quotas. Based upon spring lek surveys, sage grouse numbers have improved but not yet for the three consecutive years necessary for any proposal to re-open closed areas.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public comment on this proposal ended June 29. Comments have been forwarded to the Commission.

Alternatives and Analysis

The proposal is based upon field observations and is consistent with statewide upland game bird management.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends adopting the proposed 2015 bag and possession limits and permit quota changes. All other upland game bird regulations will remain unchanged from 2014.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission approve the proposed 2015 upland game bird bag and possession limits and permit quotas as presented by FWP.